

CLAIMS

1. A device including:
 - 5 - a network interface for interfacing the device with a computer network, the network interface including a memory for storing a network address of the device; and
 - a speech subsystem for speaking said network address in number form.
2. A device according to claim 1, further including:
 - 10 - a user-input interface for receiving an output-prompt input from a user, the user-input interface being responsive to receiving said output-prompt input to cause the speech subsystem to speak said network address.
3. A device according to claim 1, wherein the network address is an IP address, the speech
 - 15 subsystem being arranged to speak the network address in dotted decimal format.
4. A device according to claim 1, wherein the vocabulary of the speech subsystem is substantially restricted to a minimum vocabulary required for speaking IP network
 - 20 addresses.
5. A device according to claim 1, wherein the speech subsystem is arranged to speak the network address only in English.
6. A device comprising:
 - 25 - a recogniser subsystem comprising an audio input transducer, and a speech recogniser operative to recognise computer network addresses input in spoken number form to the audio input transducer; and
 - a communications subsystem operative to receive from the recogniser subsystem a said computer network address recognised by the recogniser subsystem, and to send a
 - 30 message over the network using that address as a destination address of the message.
7. A device according to claim 6, wherein the vocabulary of the recogniser subsystem is

substantially restricted to a minimum vocabulary required for recognising IP network addresses.

8. A devices according to claim 6, wherein the speech recogniser is operative to recognise
5 IP addresses spoken in dotted decimal form in the English language.

9. A method for the output of the computer address of a device having computer network interface, the method comprising the steps of:

- retrieving the current network address of the device from a memory of the network
10 interface of the device; and
- outputting the retrieved network address in spoken number form.

10. A method according to claim 9, wherein the network address is output in response to a
15 prompt from a user.

11. A method according to claim 9, wherein the network address is an IP address, the
address being output in spoken dotted decimal format.

12. A method by which a first device can communicating with a remote second device
20 over a computer network, the method comprising the steps of :

- (a) receiving in spoken number form the computer network address of the second device
and transforming the address into a network usable form;
- (b) sending a message from the first device over the computer network using the
transformed address formed in step (a) as a destination address of the message.

25 13. A device according to claim 12, wherein the network address is an IP network address
received in spoken dotted format.

14. A method by which a first device can communicating with a remote second device
30 over a computer network, the method comprising the steps of :

- (a) at the second device, retrieving the current network address of the device from a
memory of the network interface of the device and outputting the retrieved network

address in spoken number form;

(b) passing the network address of the second device in spoken number form directly, or via a voice transmission system, to the first device; and

(c) at the first device, receiving in spoken number form the computer network address of the second device, transforming the address into a network usable form, and sending a message from the first device over the computer network using the transformed address as a destination address of the message.

15. A device according to claim 12, wherein the network address of the second device is an IP network address, this address being output in step (a) in spoken dotted format.